

Frequently Asked Questions
January 2016

Generic Accountability Measures and Dolphin Allocation Amendment

What does the Generic Accountability Measures and Dolphin Allocation Amendment do?

- This action amends the fishery management plans for snapper-grouper and golden crab in South Atlantic, and for dolphin and wahoo in the Atlantic.
- Revises sector allocations for dolphin, and updates accountability measures for snapper-grouper species and golden crab.

What are the revised sector allocations for dolphin?

- Ten percent of the dolphin annual catch limit (1,534,485 pounds whole weight) will be allocated to the commercial sector and 90 percent of the annual catch limit (13,810,361 pounds whole weight) will be allocated to the recreational sector.
- The previous allocations were 92.46 percent for the recreational sector, and 7.54 percent for the commercial sector.

Which species and species complexes are affected by the revised accountability measures?

- The commercial and recreational accountability measures will be revised for black grouper, mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper, greater amberjack, red porgy, gag, golden tilefish, red grouper, snowy grouper, gray triggerfish, hogfish, scamp, Atlantic spadefish, bar jack, the other snappers complex, the other jacks complex, the other shallow-water grouper complex, the other porgies complex, wreckfish (recreational), and golden crab (commercial).

What are the new accountability measures for the commercial and recreational sectors?

- If the commercial sector's annual catch limit is met or projected to be met, that sector will be closed for the remainder of the fishing season.
- If the recreational sector's annual catch limit is met or is projected to be met, that sector will be closed for the remainder of the fishing season, unless, the regional administrator determines that a closure is unnecessary, regardless if the population status of the species, or one or more species in a species complex, is overfished (the population is too low).
- If the commercial sector's annual catch limit is exceeded, the annual catch limit in the following fishing season will be reduced by the amount of the overage only if the species, or one or more species in a species complex, is overfished and the total annual catch limit (commercial and recreational combined) is exceeded.
- If the recreational sector's annual catch limit is exceeded, the length of the recreational sector's fishing season will be reduced **and** the annual catch limit in the following fishing season would be reduced by the amount of the overage only if the species, or one or more species in a species complex, is overfished and the total annual catch limit (commercial and recreational combined) is exceeded.

Who will be affected by this Amendment?

- Commercial and recreational fishers who fish for dolphin in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) from Maine through the East Coast of Florida.

- Commercial and recreational fishers who fish for snapper-grouper species (black grouper, mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper, greater amberjack, red porgy, gag, golden tilefish, red grouper, snowy grouper, gray triggerfish, hogfish, scamp, Atlantic spadefish, bar jack, the other snappers complex, the other jacks complex, the other shallow-water grouper complex, the other porgies complex) in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) off North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.
- Recreational fishers who fish for wreckfish in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) off North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.
- Commercial golden crab fishers in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) off North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. There is no recreational component to the golden crab fishery.

Where can I get more information on the Generic Accountability Measures and Dolphin Allocation Amendment and its Final Rule?

- Contact NOAA Fisheries
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By FAX: (727) 824-5308
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- The Generic Accountability Measures and Dolphin Allocation Amendment may be found online at the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Web site at: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/2014/am_dolphin_allocation/index.html or the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.